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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME TO A 4-H CLUB MEMBER

A radio talk by Camilla Wooms, Assistant Home Demonstration Agent, Savannah, Georgia, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, May 4, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

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The 4-H Club Work is in operation in every State in the Union, and in all lands under the jurisdiction of the United States. It is a Federal organization for rural girls and boys and has a membership of over 900,000, thousands of whom are Negro girls and boys. The club work is so well organized and its program so carefully planned and carried out that each member has numerous educational opportunities to prepare himself for living a fuller, richer, happier, and more satisfying life. It gives a club member the opportunity for training himself to live and work peacefully, harmoniously and cooperatively with other human beings and to wish others well.

Organized club work in a rural community gives a member opportunity to work and play and to find happiness and contentment in rural life. A club girl in doing her work in cooking, canning, meal planning, house furnishings, clothing, home beautification, recreation and other club projects, has the opportunity to discover how to make herself more efficient, more useful and more attractive. She has the opportunity to learn how to make home happier, and more satisfying and at the same time, prepare herself for future home making.

The opportunity comes to a club boy while he works with livestock, projects in field crops, horticulture, soil building, terracing, forestry and the like, to learn how to work systematically, to keep records and accounts, earn money, to acquire property and to become educated in the essentials for securing a position and for becoming a future farmer, business or professional leader. The opportunity comes to these club members to learn how to compare, to judge and to reach conclusions and to train the eye to discern and to point out many facts that an untrained person could never see. They have the opportunity also to decide their future careers and to train for them. The opportunity for developing a worthy use of leisure time comes to club members as they attend field meetings; go on tours, hikes, and excursions and carry on other forms of noble enjoyment. They learn to explore fields, forests, mountains and streams; to appreciate the beauties of nature and at the same time, develop healthy minds and healthy bodies. In addition, the opportunity comes to appreciate the country and to prepare and plan for a modern farm and a beautiful country home with modern conveniences.

A 4-H club member learns through club recreation how to give and to take, and how to play fair.

Outstanding club girls and boys who attend the leader-training meetings held during the year, have the opportunity to receive the very best instructions from trained club leaders, Extension Specialists, and experts interested in 4-H club projects.

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4-H club leaders are often sent to Inter-State Meets and contests and also receive much valuable training in leadership.

The mingling with other girls and boys already attending college and contacts with men and women who are college graduates, give club members the opportunity to realize the value of at least a college education. Scores of Negro boys and girls have become interested in college through their club work, and are now making fine records in the college which they attend.

Curtis Miller, Peach County, Georgia, 4-H club girl, through her club work training and school training, developed the art of public speaking. While a club girl, she entered three oratorical contests and was the winner of more than twelve hundred and fifty dollars. With this money, supplemented by money made on her potato project, she spent four years in college, graduating last June.

Hence, there is no other kind of club work for rural girls and boys in America today, that gives a club member so many educational opportunities as does the 4-H Club Work in that successful participation in the various phases gives the opportunity for all-round development of head, hand, health, and heart, thus preparing a member educationally, economically, physically, socially and spiritually to become an efficient, industrious, law-abiding citizen. So far as the rural Negro boys and girls are concerned, the 4-H Club Work is one of the greatest blessings that has ever come to them.
